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## **News Release**

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### **West Virginia man pleads guilty to mailing explosives**

Today in federal court in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a 56-year-old West Virginia man pleaded guilty to mailing an explosive device to a resident of Houston, Minnesota, in July of 2009. Appearing before United States District Court Judge John Tunheim, Mark Steven Anderson, of Marmet, West Virginia, specifically pled guilty to one count of mailing an injurious article. He was indicted on August 18, 2009.

In his plea agreement, Anderson admitted mailing a resident of Houston, Minnesota, a package containing a device that could ignite or explode, his intent being to injure that person. According to a U.S. Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS") affidavit filed in the case, the recipient of the parcel notified the Houston County Sheriff's Office after opening it and finding two sticks of dynamite connected to fuses and cords. Deputies determined the improvised explosive device, comprised of gun powder, matches, cardboard tubes, a striker plate, and fuses, was designed to detonate when the package was opened. However, it failed to work as planned.

USPIS investigators traced the package to Charleston, West Virginia, and Mark Anderson. They learned that Anderson had previously lived in Houston, Minnesota. Anderson was arrested on July 28, 2009, at his West Virginia residence without incident.

For his crime, Anderson faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. Judge Tunheim will determine his sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the USPIS and the Houston County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of West Virginia. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A Dees.